

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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-----300205Z 026396 /22

R 291455Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8825

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 463

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO, PBOR

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION ON THE WEST BANK

SUMMARY: MAINSTREAM WEST BANK OPINION IS PLEASED WITH THE
OUTCOME OF THE PNC IN CAIRO AS WELL AS THE PROSPECT OF RESUMPTION
OF NEGOTIATIONS. WEST BANK/EAST JUERSALEM SUPPORTERS OF KING
HUSSEIN ARE "GREATLY ENCOURAGED" NOT ONLY BY THE PNC SESSION
BUT BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENTS ON THE ME. END SUMMARY.

1. PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS INDICATE THAT THE ELECTED LEADRS OF
THE WEST BANK'S TWO MOST POPULOUS AREAS, NABLUS AND HEBRON, ARE
PLEASED WITH WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF
THE PNC MEETING IN CAIRO. THEY GIVE ARAFAT CREDIT FOR HOLDING
THE PLO TOGETHER WHILE INDICATING FLEXIBILITY ON THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF A WEST BANK/GAZA STATE AND THE WILLINGNESS TO PARTICI-
PATE IN NEGOTIATIONS. AT PRESENT, A MAJORITY SEEMS TO BE BEHIND THE
PLO AND ARAFAT PERSONALLY AND THERE IS NO SERIOUS SENTIMENT
IN FAVOR OF AN INDIGENOUS "THIRD FORCE".

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2. THE NUMERICALLY LESS IMPORTANT PRO-HASHEMITE GROUP ALSO SEEMS
TO BE OPTIMISTIC AS RESULT THE PNC MEETING; PRESIDENT CARTER'S
RECENT STATEMENTS AND THE SECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT
ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE EDITOR OF JERUSALEM'S LARGEST
ARABIC LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER ABU ZULUF RECNELTY FOLD CONGEN HOW
ENCOURAGED HE WAS BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT COMMENTS ON

MINOR CHANGES IN 1967 BORDERS AND THE NEED FOR A HOMELAND FOR THE REFUGEES. (HE DID NOT SEEM UPSET OVER THE STATEMENTS DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN LEGAL AND SECURITY BORDERS.) ANWAR NUSEIBEH, FORMER JORDANIAN MINISTER AND LEADING EAST JERUSALEM NOTABLE, ALSO ACCLAIMED PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS AS EVIDENCE ADMINISTRATION IS SERIOUS ABOUT TRYING TO ACHIEVE AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. HE THOUGHT ARAFAT HAD ACHIEVED AS MUCH AS COULD BE ACHIEVED AT CAIRO AND WAS GENERALLY HAPPY WITH THE 15 POINTS. INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, NUSEIBEH TOOK SAME LINE AS NATIONALIST MAYORS THAT INDEPENDENT PALESTINE WOULD HAVE TO BE CREATED FIRST AND THEN NEW ENTITY WOULD DEFINE ITS RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING STATES.

3. BOTH ABU ZULUF AND NUSEIBEH NOTED US HAD NOT MENTIONED JERUSALEM IN COURSE OF RECENT PRONOUNCEMENTS.

4. AS A RULE WEST BANKERS TEND TO TAKE THEIR CUE ON MAJOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS FROM STATEMENTS MADE BY ARAB LEADERS ABROAD. NATIONALIST MAYORS SEEM GENUINELY PLEASED WITH OUTCOME OF PNC AND ARAFAT'S RECENT FAVORABLE STATEMENTS ON US STANCE WILL PRESUMABLY ALSO BE REFLECTED HERE. AS FOR UNUSUAL OPTIMISM SHOWN BY PRO-HASHEMITES (WHO USUALLY ARE SUSPICIOUS AND PESSIMISTIC), WE ASSUME THIS LINE REFLECTS A SIGNAL FROM AMMAN. ONLY STRONGLY DISSENTING NOTE WE CONTINUE TO HEAR IS FROM BETHLEHEM'S MAYOR FREIJ (SEE JERUSALEM 447.)
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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, IS, JO, PNC
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